

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NAME: BUNDY, Theodore

DATE TESTED: March 8, 1976

TESTS ADMINISTERED: Rorschach, Sentence Completion, MMPI

Mr. Bundy is a 29-year-old man who was seen in the County Jail after being convicted of Aggravated Kidnapping. Mr. Bundy was very verbal and cooperative during all contacts with him. He maintained his innocence and stated that he had nothing to hide.

Mr. Bundy offered a fairly detailed account of his life since graduating from high school. This account was characterized by frequent moves from place to place and encompassed a large number of jobs held for relatively short periods of time. He was also active as a volunteer in a number of political campaigns. After changing schools several times, Mr. Bundy stated that he received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1972 from the University of Washington. He then attended the University of Puget Sound Law School for one year before coming to the University of Utah.

Mr. Bundy indicated that he had little contact with females until he met a young woman at the University of Washington with whom he lived periodically. He now lists as one of his biggest mistakes the fact that he did not marry her. Since being in Utah, Mr. Bundy said he has had sexual intercourse with several women, and insisted that he had no sexual difficulties of any kind. He denied ever having engaged in any homosexual activity. Mr. Bundy acknowledged that he smoked marijuana on a fairly regular basis and drank liquor occasionally.

The only times during the interview in which Mr. Bundy lost his self-assured composure was when he talked about his mother and when he expressed his belief that he would be sent to the Utah State Prison. He acknowledged that if he were ever set free, his life would have undergone some drastic changes. He cited loss of friends, an inability to finish law school and to participate in politics, and his "crushed" parents as examples of how his life has been immutably changed. Mr. Bundy stated his major goal at this time is to be free someday to "straighten out the (judicial) system that didn't work for me."

TESTS INTERPRETATION: Intellectually Mr. Bundy appears to be in the highest 10% of the population. His verbal skills are very well developed, Mr. Bundy being able to express himself clearly and concisely most of the time. There was no evidence in the interview or test data to suggest the presence of a thought disorder. Mr. Bundy is not psychotic, nor does he evidence any other readily observable emotional disturbance.

Mr. Bundy's overt approach to the testing situation was a cooperative one. He stated he would complete whatever tests were administered to him, and stressed several times that he had nothing to hide because he was innocent. However, on a more subtle level, he consistently attempted to disguise his attitudes and emotions primarily by responding in socially acceptable ways rather than expressing his true feelings. For example, he demonstrated a marked degree of response conformity on the MMPI, denying any deviant attitudes, beliefs, or unusual experiences of any kind. However, his background is illustrative of a man who has chosen not to follow many of the traditional societal standards. This incongruency and other test data strongly suggest that Mr. Bundy exerted a systematic effort to portray himself in a manner which did not reveal his true attitudes and beliefs. While adopting this mode of adjustment to the tests, Mr. Bundy displayed

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a notably compulsive orientation. For example, he kept a record of how he responded to each of the 400 items on the MMPI, a behavior which I have never seen before, and one which is illustrative of the rigid control Mr. Bundy was exerting over his emotional responsiveness. The compositivity exhibited by Mr. Bundy is in contrast to other reports that his behavior sometimes becomes erratic and almost purposeless. Thus, Mr. Bundy appears to operate on very different principles at different times, but, unlike most psychotic disorders, is able to determine his behavior pattern at any time. Thus, the crimes against women which are being attributed to him are most likely of a calculated nature and not of an irrational or uncontrollable origin. Mr. Bundy's strong (and extraordinarily successful) attempt to disguise his underlying feelings limited somewhat the diagnostic efficacy of the psychological tests.

For an intellectually gifted man who stresses the adequacy and stability of his emotional adjustment there appears to be an inordinate amount of vacillation and ambivalence evident in his life. There are many instances in which he has gone from the pursuit of a strong achievement drive to menial jobs with which he says he was quite satisfied. His relationship with his girlfriend in Seattle was punctuated with periods of emotional attachment followed by a withdrawal from impending responsibilities and commitments associated with marriage. There are also reports from other people which suggest that at times Mr. Bundy was fastidious in his physical appearance, while during other periods, he was quite slovenly. The latter appearance was evident when Mr. Bundy was seen in jail. The tendency to vacillate from one mode of behavior to another and back again is suggestive not only of a man who cannot maintain his goal-directed behavior and accept the responsibilities that come with success, but also of one who can compartmentalize his feelings to the point that he can, in effect, disassociate himself from one set of values in favor of another. The sexual deviancy which led to his conviction seems to be encapsulated as far as the rest of his behavior is concerned. His lack of a prior record suggests that such deviancy does not exert itself in the form of other antisocial behavior, although his lifestyle has been indicative of the non-internalization of many societal conventions.

The only suggestion of an aberrant feeling toward females was seen on the Rorschach, a measure which provides few clues as to what kind of responses are the most socially acceptable. On one card, Mr. Bundy identified two figures looking at each other and then ascribed each as having a bosom, a perfectly appropriate response. However, he then went on to state that the figures were "asexual" because they had "no other sexual identity." Such a perception is indicative of an ambivalence toward females, an ambivalence which could resolve in either withdrawal or hostility. In addition, the Rorschach suggested that Mr. Bundy does not develop close emotional relationships easily, an impression corroborated by the MMPI. While he can interact rather easily on a verbal level, it appears that he allows himself to become emotionally close to few people; thus, Mr. Bundy could be expected to have many acquaintances, but few close friends who know him well.

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Mr. Bundy's emotional affect appear to be quite changeable and at times inappropriate. Both times Mr. Bundy was interviewed, he initially presented himself as being very relaxed and quite happy. He talked in a rather detached manner about all topics except his mother, his girlfriend in Seattle, and the prospect of a prison term. When not on these topics, Mr. Bundy spoke like a man who had few cares or worries. On the sentence completion blank, he wrote I am "at peace with myself" and added, "I feel good about the life I've had." When quizzed about such responses, it again became apparent that Mr. Bundy was able to detach and compartmentalize his feelings toward different situations to a highly unusual degree.

Mr. Bundy thus appears to be an intellectually bright man who is able to give socially acceptable responses to obvious questions, thereby disguising his true attitudes and beliefs. However, his background, his sometimes inappropriate emotional reactivity, and his responses to more subjective measures belie his contention that he is a very emotionally stable and problem-free man. His social interactions tend to be schizoid in nature. Mr. Bundy is able to compartmentalize his emotions and thought processes to an unusual degree, possibly to the point that he can dissociate himself from one set of standards so that he can almost totally adopt another. Thus, he is probably capable of giving people very different impressions of himself, depending on what set of standards he chooses to guide his behavior. The test results uncovered no clear-cut reason as to why Mr. Bundy may have committed the crime of which he has been convicted, but some evidence of confusion and possibly hostility towards females was seen. A further evaluation by the 90-day program might be helpful in terms of allowing assessment of Mr. Bundy's behavior by a situational test rather than by standardized testing procedures to which Mr. Bundy can respond quite appropriately. However, such a sentence may only postpone a prison sentence because, in my opinion, available psychotherapeutic procedures would have little impact on Mr. Bundy's basic personality structure.

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE  
AND REHABILITATION

## PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Name: BUNDY, Theodore  
Date: December 18, 1976

TESTS ADMINISTERED:

California Psychological Inventory  
Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory  
Hooper Visual Organization Test  
Draw A Person  
Rotter Incomplete Sentences Blank  
Rorschach

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Mr. Bundy was referred by his attorney, Mr. John O'Connell after he had been charged for aggravated kidnap. Mr. O'Connell was concerned about Mr. Bundy's psychological condition, and wondered if there might be some psychopathology which would have caused him to commit such an act.

Mr. Bundy was born in Burlington, Vermont. He was raised in Philadelphia until he was four years old. At that time, his mother moved to Tacoma, Washington. He stated that his father's identification was unknown to him, and he later learned that he was an illegitimate child. When Mr. Bundy was five years old, his mother remarried and, at that time, he took his stepfather's name. He had four younger half brothers and sisters. He felt that he was raised as an equal with his siblings and he had no great difficulties in his home.

Mr. Bundy remembered his school life as being good; he had friends and did "fairly well". He stated that he graduated from high school with approximately a 3.2 grade point average, on a system where an "A" would be 4.0. In 1965 he entered the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, where he did approximately "B" average work. He stated that he wanted to stay home his first year of school. For his second year he went to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he obtained a 3.5 grade point average while majoring in Chinese Language. He stated that he transferred to Stanford that summer to take advanced training in Chinese. It was at that time that he decided on a new major because he felt that Chinese was not a suitable major to get employment after graduation. He stated that he tried architecture but eventually dropped out of school and began to travel around the country. He stated that, at this time, he did a lot of skiing, eventually going to Heavenly Valley Ski Resort where he worked that winter. After his stint at the ski resort, he went to Philadelphia to live with his mother's sister, eventually returning to the northwest in the Spring of 1968. At that